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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

LACK OF ORGANIZATION, SHORTAGE OF SKILLED WORKERS
SLOW DOWN CONSTRUCTION OF PLANTS

The Soviet government demands radical improvements in capital construction work. First of all, the work at construction projects must be better organized and better planned on the basis of weekly and daily schedules. Builders must fulfill and exceed their plans without fail and priority must be given to completion of the most important projects, i.e., the basic industrial structures of power engineering systems. Available machines must be operated at full capacity, and personnel must be trained. The work of planning organizations must be reorganized in the near future by converting to standard planning of cement, slate, brick, and other plants. Supply organizations should operate more efficiently than in the past.

- 1 -

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Measures for basic improvements in capital construction were discussed and worked out at an expanded meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR on 13 and 14 May 1952, which was attended by leading workers of enterprises and construction projects.

Basilov, Deputy Minister of Construction Materials Industry USSR, stated that there had been a considerable increase in the volume of capital construction in recent months, but emphasized the fact that new industrial enterprises were being put into operation far too slowly. During 1951, only slightly over 50 percent of the new plants provided by construction plans had been completed and had begun to operate.

As a result of serious shortcomings in capital construction work supervised by "Glavnovtsement" (Main Administration of New Cement Enterprises) and other construction organizations, the 1951 plan for construction of cement plants was not fulfilled. "Glavshifer" (Main Administration of Slate Industry) completed only 9.8 percent of the plan for building new plants. Only one new slate plant out of five plants provided by plan, is now in operation, and only partially. "Glavgips" (Main Administration of Gypsum Industry) did not complete construction of the Rostov and Stalingrad plasterboard and gypsum parts plants. The Leningrad and Minsk gypsum plants were delayed in starting operations. The "Soyuzshlak" (All-Union Slag) Trust, "Glavkirpich" (Main Administration of Brick Industry), and "Glavstroykeramika" (Main Administration of Construction Ceramics Industry) failed to meet their plans for construction of plants. As a result, there was a shortage of radiators, boilers for heating systems, sewage pipes, prefabricated houses, and other important products. Only 60.5 percent of the plan for housing construction was completed.

The first 4 months of 1952 have not shown any improvement in construction work. During the January-April period, only 20 percent of the year plan for capital construction was completed. Instead of construction costs being lowered, they have been allowed to go up.

Ministries and main administrations of Union republics have been supervising construction of new construction materials enterprises in an unsatisfactory manner. Especially construction organizations under the Ministries of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR, Ukrainian SSR, Belorussian SSR, and Kazakh SSR have failed to meet their quotas. One of the main reasons for the lag in construction is the fact that the main construction administrations, i.e., "Glavstroy" (Main Administration of Construction) and "Glavvostokstroy" (Main Administration of Construction in Eastern Regions), take little interest in the work of subordinate trusts and administrations and do not give them the necessary aid and supervision.

Inadequate use of machinery, poor organization, and an indifferent attitude toward the demands and needs of workers on the part of a number of trusts and construction administrations has led to a large turnover of personnel. For example, 105 workers were hired for the construction project of the Orsk Construction Administration during the first quarter 1952, and 450 workers left during the same quarter. As a result, trusts and construction administrations do not have the necessary quota of permanent construction workers, especially mechanization experts.

One of the reasons hindering the successful development of construction is the poor operation of planning organizations under "Glavproyekt" (Main Planning Administration). Planning institutes, including "Giprotsement" (State Institute for Planning Cement Enterprises), "Giprosteklo" (State Institute for Planning Glass Enterprises), "Giprostroymaterialy" (State Institute for Planning Construction Materials Enterprises), and "Rosstromproyekt" (RSFSR Planning Trust for Construction Materials Enterprises), continuously fail to meet schedules for completion of construction plans and estimates.

- 2 -

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At the same meeting, reports were delivered by Lopukhov, Deputy Minister of Construction Materials Industry USSR, as well as a number of main administration chiefs and deputy ministers, stating that construction projects had the necessary technical equipment for their work, but that lack of organization on many construction sites made it impossible to conduct the work speedily and satisfactorily. For example, the "Donbasspromstroy" Trust completed only 84.3 percent of the 4-month plan in 1952. The trust has almost the required number of workers, but the work is organized inefficiently. Many skilled construction workers are employed in secondary and auxiliary operations and basic construction work is delayed considerably. Mechanical equipment is used very inadequately. During the first quarter of 1952, only 20 percent of excavation work was done by machines, the rest by hand. Idle periods of machinery are unbelievably long. For example, in the first quarter, two bulldozers were operated 400 hours and were idle 848 hours. The total working time of six tower cranes was 1,250 hours and their idle time amounted to 1,530 hours.

Many construction organizations under "Glavvostokstroy," including the Chernorechenskiy Trust and "Pashiytsemstroy" (Pashiya Cement Construction) Trust, are operating inefficiently. Labor productivity is low, and there is a large turnover of workers.

Many trusts and construction projects complained about the work of other related main administrations, as, for example, "Glavstroyles" (Main Administration of Logging and Woodworking Industry). Because of a lumber shortage, a number of construction projects were unable to meet their schedules. During the first quarter, Ukrainian construction projects received less than 40 percent of the necessary amount of lumber. Construction organizations of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR are in a similar position. Lumber shortages delayed construction of the brick plant in Kursk. Frequently the lumber delivered is unfit for use in construction.

Workers of "Glavnerud" (Main Administration of Nonore Materials) are also behind schedule. In a number of projects construction is delayed due to a shortage of building stone.

It was evident from many reports delivered at the meeting of the collegium that construction projects often experience a shortage of engineers and technicians. For example, organizations of "Glavstroy" are short 150 technical engineers. The Administration of Supervisory Personnel has not supplied construction projects with a sufficient number of specialists. The "Soyuzmontazhzhilstroy" (All-Union Installation and Housing Construction) Trust has no chief mechanic and the Moscow Construction Administration has no chief engineer.

P. A. Yudin, Minister of Construction Materials Industry USSR, also gave a lengthy speech at the meeting. He emphasized the fact that the construction materials industry was one of the leading branches of heavy industry and stressed the importance of training more construction workers. A number of new schools and training courses are to be organized for this purpose.

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- 3 -

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